

.....  
(Original Signature of Member)

112TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To amend the District of Columbia Home Rule Act to revise the timing  
of special elections for local office in the District of Columbia.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Ms. NORTON introduced the following bill; which was referred to the  
Committee on \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**A BILL**

To amend the District of Columbia Home Rule Act to revise  
the timing of special elections for local office in the  
District of Columbia.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “District of Columbia  
5 Special Election Reform Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. TIMING OF SPECIAL ELECTIONS FOR LOCAL OF-**  
7       **FICE IN DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.**

8       (a) COUNCIL.—

1           (1) CHAIR.—The first sentence of section  
2           401(b)(3) of the District of Columbia Home Rule  
3           Act (sec. 1–204.01(b)(3), D.C. Official Code) is  
4           amended to read as follows: “To fill a vacancy in the  
5           Office of Chairman, the Board of Elections shall  
6           hold a special election in the District on the Tuesday  
7           occurring at least 70 days and not more than 174  
8           days after the date on which such vacancy occurs  
9           which the Board of Elections determines, based on  
10          a totality of the circumstances, taking into account,  
11          inter alia, cultural and religious holidays and the ad-  
12          ministrability of the election, will provide the largest  
13          opportunity for voter participation.”.

14          (2) MEMBERS ELECTED FROM WARDS.—The  
15          first sentence of section 401(d)(1) of such Act (sec.  
16          1–204.01(d)(1), D.C. Official Code) is amended to  
17          read as follows: “In the event of a vacancy in the  
18          Council of a member elected from a ward, the Board  
19          of Elections shall hold a special election in the Dis-  
20          trict on the Tuesday occurring at least 70 days and  
21          not more than 174 days after the date on which  
22          such vacancy occurs which the Board of Elections  
23          determines, based on a totality of the circumstances,  
24          taking into account, inter alia, cultural and religious  
25          holidays and the administrability of the election, will

1 provide the largest opportunity for voter participa-  
2 tion.”.

3 (3) MEMBERS ELECTED AT-LARGE.—The sec-  
4 ond sentence of section 401(d)(2) of such Act (sec.  
5 1–204.01(d)(2)) is amended by striking “and such  
6 special election” and all that follows and inserting  
7 the following: “and such special election shall be  
8 held on the Tuesday occurring at least 70 days and  
9 not more than 174 days after the date on which  
10 such vacancy occurs which the Board of Elections  
11 determines, based on a totality of the circumstances,  
12 taking into account, inter alia, cultural and religious  
13 holidays and the administrability of the election, will  
14 provide the largest opportunity for voter participa-  
15 tion.”.

16 (b) MAYOR.—The first sentence of section 421(c)(2)  
17 of such Act (sec. 1–204.21.(c)(2), D.C. Official Code) is  
18 amended to read as follows: “To fill a vacancy in the Of-  
19 fice of Mayor, the Board of Elections shall hold a special  
20 election in the District on the Tuesday occurring at least  
21 70 days and not more than 174 days after the date on  
22 which such vacancy occurs which the Board of Elections  
23 determines, based on a totality of the circumstances, tak-  
24 ing into account, inter alia, cultural and religious holidays

1 and the administrability of the election, will provide the  
2 largest opportunity for voter participation.”.

3 (c) ATTORNEY GENERAL.—The first sentence of sec-  
4 tion 435(b)(1) of such Act (sec. 1–204.35(b)(1), D.C. Of-  
5 ficial Code) is amended by striking “the Board” and all  
6 that follows and inserting the following: “the Board of  
7 Elections shall hold a special election in the District on  
8 the Tuesday occurring at least 70 days and not more than  
9 174 days after the date on which such vacancy occurs  
10 which the Board of Elections determines, based on a total-  
11 ity of the circumstances, taking into account, inter alia,  
12 cultural and religious holidays and the administrability of  
13 the election, will provide the largest opportunity for voter  
14 participation.”.

15 **SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

16 The amendments made by section 2 shall apply with  
17 respect to vacancies occurring on or after the enactment  
18 of this Act.